



## Fact Sheet

# Widows Creek-Coal Retirements

The TVA board of directors on Nov. 14, 2013, approved a resolution to retire Unit 8 at the Widows Creek Fossil Plant near Stevenson, Ala. This is in addition to previously announced commitments to retire Units 1-6 by 2015. Widows Creek Unit 7 will continue to operate.

### **Background**

TVA has been looking at its overall fleet, evaluating how to best achieve a cost-effective, efficient, environmentally responsible and diversified portfolio. TVA is taking actions to improve operations and financial health with the overall goal of keeping rates low and reliability high, while balancing the other aspects of its mission.

The Widows Creek decision considered risks and benefits related to demand for power, fuel costs, construction, anticipated future regulations and impact to our employees and communities around Widows Creek..

TVA committed in a 2011 clean-air agreement with EPA to retire 18 coal units by 2018, including Widows Creek Units 1-6 by 2015. Units 1-6 were idled in 2010 and 2011, and Units 3 and 5 were retired in 2013. Employees were told in 2013 that Unit 8 also would be retired. TVA is committed to retire Units 1, 2, 4 and 6 by July 31, 2015.

Retiring Unit 8 and the six other units at Widows Creek was determined to be the best long-term decision when all benefits and risks were weighed, and will help TVA continue to bring cleaner, reliable, low-cost energy to the people of the Tennessee Valley.

### **Key points**

- Widows Creek has 175 employees. TVA recognizes that workers are impacted by these decisions. As we have done at John Sevier, Johnsonville and other sites across the Valley impacted by changes, our Human Resources and Labor Relations representatives will communicate with employees to provide timely information and work with those impacted.
- North Alabama continues to be a key area for TVA generation with one other coal plant, eight gas turbines, a nuclear plant and three hydroelectric dams serving the people of the Tennessee Valley every day.
- Coal will remain an important part of TVA's overall generation mix for the foreseeable future.
- Retiring Unit 8 at Widows Creek will add about 475 megawatts of retired coal to our prior EPA commitment as we work to provide cleaner energy.
- As a result of lower demand, more stringent regulations, and other factors, TVA now has either retired or announced pending retirements of 26 coal units totaling more than 5,600 megawatts at its Colbert, John Sevier, Johnsonville, Paradise and Widow's Creek fossil plants.
- These actions will result in lower air emissions, less dependence on coal and greater reliance on cleaner power sources and greater energy efficiency – all key components of TVA's vision, Integrated Resource Plan and business strategy.

### **Other information**

- Construction at Widows Creek began in 1950 and was completed in 1965.
- Widows Creek Fossil Plant, named for a creek that flows through the plant site, is located on Gunter'sville Reservoir on the Tennessee River in northeast Alabama.



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- Widows Creek Units 7 and 8 had a combined summer net capacity of 974 megawatts. In a typical year, Widows Creek Units 7 and 8 generate about 6 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, enough to supply about 400,000 homes.
- Widows Creek Units 1 through 6, idled in 2010 and 2011, had a combined summer net capacity of 995 megawatts.
- TVA has taken a number of steps to make the efficient generation of power at Widows Creek as clean as possible:
  - Units 7 and 8 are equipped with wet limestone scrubbers to remove particulates and sulfur dioxide emissions. These units also use low-NOx burners to reduce the production of nitrogen oxides.
  - TVA has installed selective catalytic reduction systems on units 7 and 8 to further reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by about 90 percent.

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